

MICAH 6 : 8

The God we worship - 'He has shown you what is good'

BIBLE STUDY

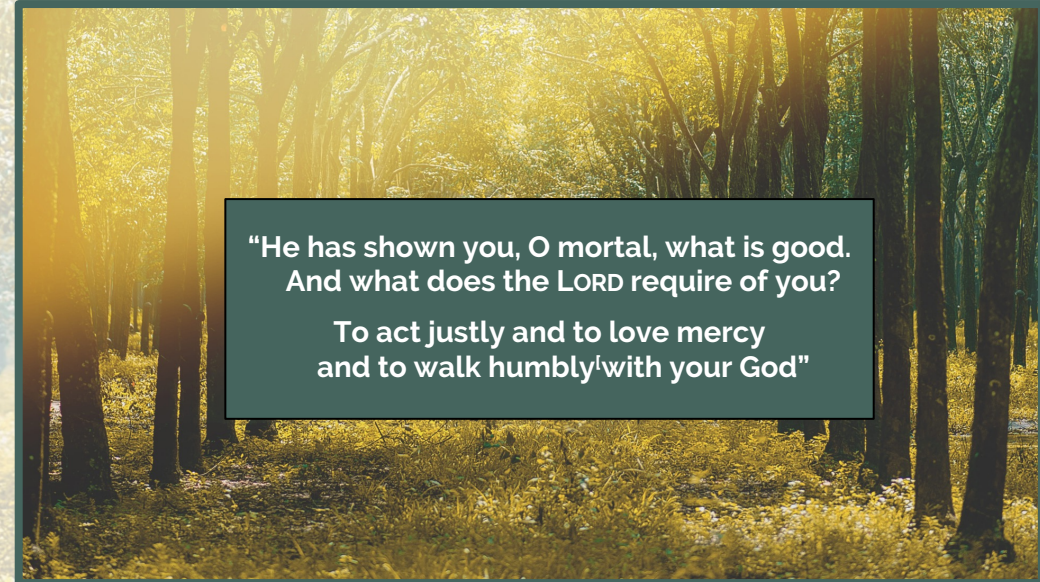


STARTER:

If someone were to watch you for a week, what sort of picture do you think they would form of the God you worship as a Christian? Why?

The first part of **Micah 6 : 8** reads 'He has shown you, O mortal, what is good'. We seek to emulate the God we worship.

In this study, we are going to consider the ways that God has shown us what is good. As you start, ask him to speak through Bible verses that may initially seem familiar to strike you once again with wonder.



- What reasons do we have to worship God? Think of as many as you can.
- Of course, God has many characteristics which mean that he is worthy of our praise and worship. We are going to be looking at three of them as we begin our series based on **Micah 6 : 8** - the fact that he is **just**; **merciful**; and **almighty**.

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GOD IS JUST

For each passage, discuss why it is so important for us that our God is a God of justice:

- Psalm 89 : 13-18
- Isaiah 30 : 18
- Isaiah 42 : 3, 4



When are the times when we feel as if it is hard to accept that God has been just?

Talk about how you have been helped as a believer when life feels unfair.

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GOD IS MERCIFUL

For each passage, talk about why it is so important for us that the God we worship is merciful.

- Nehemiah 9 : 29-31
- Psalm 25 : 4-6
- Luke 1 : 50-55
- Ephesians 2 : 4-5

When have you been particularly conscious that God has been merciful to you or to those you love?



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GOD IS ALMIGHTY

For each passage, talk about why it is so important to remember that God is Almighty.

- Psalm 91 : 1,2
- Jeremiah 32 : 17
- Revelation 4 : 8



What does it mean to say that God is omnipotent? Do you think we talk enough about God's omnipotence? Can you think of a time when you have found it particularly helpful to remember that he is almighty?

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GOING DEEPER

A QUESTION OF PERSPECTIVE

Each of these characteristics highlights not only God's magnificence, but also our humble status before God. Look at these verses:

Psalm 103 : 13,14

Why is it so important that we not only look to worship God for who he is, but also remember who we are?



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GOING DEEPER

TWO SIDES OF A COIN - GOD'S JUSTICE MEETS HIS MERCY

Read Romans 3 : 23-26. *(the word 'forbearance' can be translated as 'mercy').*

In this amazing passage, we are reminded of two sides of a coin - God's justice and his mercy. Jesus' death paid the price for our sin, therefore meaning that justice was paid in full. But God's mercy was also fully extended to all who believe and accept what Jesus has done.

In simple language, what is the gift of God's grace? (v. 24)

Why is it important to remember both sides of the coin?

What happens when we only hold onto one of these characteristics?



MICAH 6 : 8

The God we worship - 'He has shown you what is good'

LISTEN | PRAY

LISTEN

IN CHRIST
ALONE



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=16KYvflc2bE>

PRAY

Ask God to help you hold on to the truths of who he is, who we are, and how wonderfully we are accepted through Jesus.

Next time you take communion, remind yourself that you are freely and fully forgiven because of what Jesus has done for you.

MICAH 6 : 8

True religion - And what does the Lord require of you?

BIBLE STUDY



STARTER:

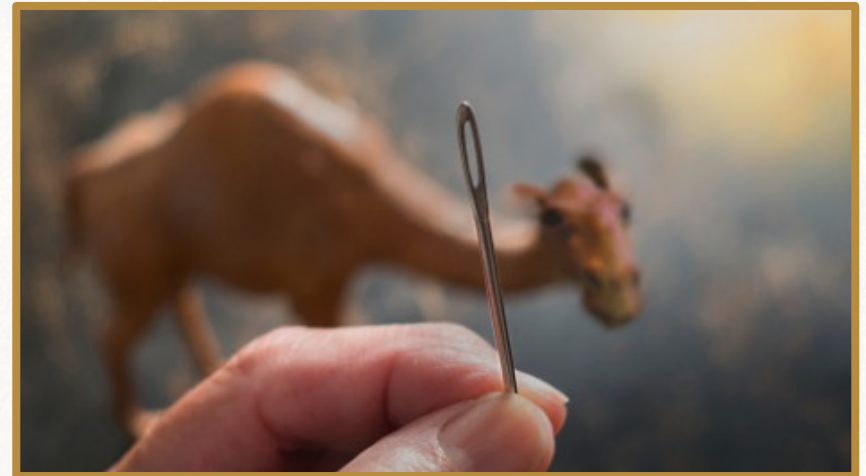
If someone asked you 'what is true religion?' how would you answer?

This week we are looking at the second part of **Micah 6 : 8**
'And what does the Lord require of you?'

As we considered last week how God showed us what is good, we now want to reflect on how God would like us to respond as we seek to follow him.

Read Matthew 19 : 16-30

- By today's standards of Christianity, do you think the rich young man would have been considered good?
- What do you think the man had wrong as he asked his initial question? Look at **Ephesians 2 : 8**.
- What is Jesus teaching us from this story about what true religion is about?



MICAH 6 : 8

True religion - And what does the Lord require of you?

BIBLE STUDY



Despite such an abundance of biblical teaching about what true religion is about, it is something which seems to be missed so often by so many Christians.

Time and again, people miss the truth in all their efforts and activities. We can feel as if we are being most spiritual when we are 'busy for God'.



The book of Micah is a reminder of this. Read Micah 6 : 6-8.

- For the Jewish people, the single most important thing in life was to 'come before the Lord' (**v6**) in worship. At this time, this usually meant bringing something to offer as a sacrifice – as referred to in **verse 6 and 7**. As Micah considers the ways in which he might show the commitment of his heart, what do you think he is really asking from his questions in these verses?
- **Read Amos 5 : 21-24**. What do we learn about how God feels if our external efforts are not matched internally?
- How do people try to 'earn' God's approval in a more modern context?
- 'He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.' (**v8**). What makes the three requirements in this verse different from what Micah suggested in **verses 6 and 7**?

MICAH 6 : 8

True religion - And what does the Lord require of you?

GOING DEEPER

- Read **Matthew 23 : 23-25**. Who is Jesus addressing? Why is this significant, bearing in mind what these people were seen to represent?
- How is Jesus making the same point as Micah did?
- What does God look for as we present our gifts to him? Look at **1 Samuel 16 : 7** and at **Psalms 51 : 17**
- Why are honesty and repentance so important before we can be used by God? What does God promise us as we seek to put him first?
- Look at **Acts 2 : 38** | **Acts 3 : 19** | **2 Corinthians 3 : 18**



MICAH 6 : 8

True religion - And what does the Lord require of you?

LISTEN | PRAY

LISTEN

What does the Lord require of you?



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2XonFoO_gWM

PRAY

Pray as you close that you would use what you have studied today to do a 'heart check'. Are there areas that God is showing you where you are seeking to earn his approval by your actions?

Thank him for his promise of transformation that comes when we seek to honour him with our whole heart.

MICAH 6 : 8

ACT JUSTLY

BIBLE STUDY



STARTER:

Here in the UK, we have a strict sense of justice at times. For example, think about the strength of reaction to queue-jumping!

Do you think that our cultural understandings of right and wrong can at times stop us seeing situations as God would want us to?



PRAY

Pray as you start that, in church, God helps us not only to obey his law but the spirit of the law.

As we continue to think about this idea of justice, we are going to look at three short stories where Jesus challenges our preconceptions.

MICAH 6 : 8

ACT JUSTLY

BIBLE STUDY



Read: Matthew 12 : 9-14 - the man with the shrivelled hand

- What do you think the Pharisees had got wrong?
- How does Jesus help to correct their understanding?
- In what ways do you think we can still fall into this trap as believers?

For example, think of certain expectations we may have about what our church service should look like which can mean that we overlook the good that God is doing 'behind the scenes'.



MICAH 6 : 8

ACT JUSTLY

BIBLE STUDY



Read: Matthew 20 vv 1-16 - The parable of the workers in the vineyard

- What do you think this parable teaches us about God's sense of justice?
- What do we sometimes forget when we think God has been unfair? Look at **Psalm 33 : 11** and **Proverbs 8 : 14**.
- Do you think that we may be 'working in the vineyard' with certain expectations of God owing us something? How might this manifest itself?
- Do you think we sometimes 'work in the vineyard' with an understanding that we are earning something? How does grace counteract this? Look at **Ephesians 2 : 8 - 9**



MICAH 6 : 8

ACT JUSTLY

BIBLE STUDY



Read: Luke 18 :1-8 - The parable of the persistent widow

- What are the two characteristics of the judge **(v2)**?
- What did the widow want? Why do you think she persisted in asking such a man for this?
- What is the connection between knowledge of God and our prayers **(v7&8)**? Why is it so important to remember that our view of God affects how we pray?



How would you summarise what Jesus is teaching us about our God of justice? Can you think of other ways in which we can learn about God's justice plan as we consider Jesus?

MICAH 6 : 8

ACT JUSTLY

GOING DEEPER

ACT JUSTLY

The verb used in this part of **Micah 6 : 8** is **ACT**. We are not to just think justly, but to act.

If we want to be right with God, we need to also be just and fair in all that we do. What are some common ways that people in our society may cheat or fiddle the system? What about at home - how can we act justly in our relationships with our family and friends?



Of course, Christians are well known for acting with justice socially. Are you engaged with social justice on any level? Think about how Christian justice is more than just punishing wrong but wants to create a situation and society where everything is right, as we look forward to when Jesus returns.

How might you seek to act out your faith so that it is not just an action, but also something which is a glimpse of future shalom?

MICAH 6 : 8

ACT JUSTLY

LISTEN | PRAY

LISTEN

GOD OF JUSTICE
Tim Hughes



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1TCh31xg4vA>

PRAY

Ask God to help you to continue to work out where you may hold an unconscious bias, towards others, or in the way you think about God.

MICAH 6 : 8

LOVE MERCY

BIBLE STUDY



STARTER:

As we walk with God and understand what it means to be transformed by him, we will more clearly understand that by 'loving mercy' we are following the example set by our merciful God.

Loving mercy is in some ways stronger than acting justly, because we can act justly without showing mercy - whereas by loving mercy, we are acting justly.

PRAY

Pray as you start that you understand God's kindness in a way that means you see others in the way he does.



As last week, we will be looking at three places where Jesus talked about mercy and consider what we can learn about this character trait of God by doing so.

MICAH 6 : 8

LOVE MERCY

BIBLE STUDY



Read: Luke 10 : 25 - 37 - the parable of the Good Samaritan

- As in previous studies, we can see that Jesus is encouraging the expert in the law to understand not just the law, but the spirit of the law (**v. 26**). Why did the teacher in the law ask his question in **verse 29** and what do you think he thought of Jesus' reply?
- What do we learn about God's priorities from the story of the Good Samaritan?
- Imagine this is the first time you have heard this story as you sit in the crowd listening to Jesus answer the expert in the law. Where would you sense God challenging you?



MICAH 6 : 8

LOVE MERCY

BIBLE STUDY



Read: John 8 :1 - 11 - the woman caught in adultery

- Look at **verse 3**. Why is it once again striking who is pointing the finger?
- Close your eyes and imagine the scene. Where is the lack of kindness particularly striking?
- From his answer in **verse 7**, Jesus shows us once again how important it is to understand the God we worship as we seek to obey his law. Looking at Jesus' final words to the woman in **verse 11**, how do we understand what God wants from those who come to him for mercy?



MICAH 6 : 8

LOVE MERCY

BIBLE STUDY



Read: Matthew 18 : 21-35 - the parable of the unmerciful servant

- Who do you think Jesus wants us to identify with in this story?
- If this story is told to show what forgiveness looks like in God's kingdom, it implies that we owe God a great debt. What do you think this debt is, and how does God show mercy in the face of it?
- God's mercy is shown clearly in his forgiveness of us when we least deserve it. Why do you think Jesus wants us to forgive others for the wrongs they have done to us?
- Where are some situations where God might ask you to show forgiveness and mercy? What might this look like and how might it transform a situation?



MICAH 6 : 8

LOVE MERCY

GOING DEEPER

Read Matthew 7 : 1-5

How do these verses help us to learn how to live mercifully?

What difference might it make to our church if we seek to avoid jumping quickly to conclusions about someone but rather 'love mercy'?



MICAH 6 : 8

LOVE MERCY

LISTEN | PRAY

LISTEN

MERCY ROAD
Worship Central



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lyc0jpBI9b0>

PRAY

**Look at the beautiful
words of 1 Peter 1 : 3**

Taking this verse one clause at a time, reflect as a group what it means to live in the light of this living hope that is ours because of God's mercy.

Turn your thoughts to praise.

MICAH 6 : 8

WALK HUMBLY WITH YOUR GOD

BIBLE STUDY



STARTER:

Can you think of someone who is humble? How does it make you feel to be around them? Why?

PRAY

As we come to our last study based on this powerful Bible verse (**Micah 6 : 8**), ask God to help you to 'humbly accept the Word planted in you' (**James 1 : 21**).



We once again look to three passages where Jesus teaches about humility.

MICAH 6 : 8

WALK HUMBLY WITH YOUR GOD

BIBLE STUDY



Read: Luke 18 : 9-14 - the parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector

- What are some areas in life where we tend to compare ourselves to others?
- Look at the Pharisee's prayer in **verses 11-12** which focuses on what he has achieved. How do you think we can avoid our prayers becoming like this? Why is it so important that we give God the glory for what he does in our lives?
- How did the Pharisee 'walk humbly'?
- How does this parable help you to understand what it means to be 'justified before God' (**v 14**) ?



MICAH 6 : 8

WALK HUMBLY WITH YOUR GOD

BIBLE STUDY



Read: Mark 12 : 41-44 - the widow's offering

- Jesus said that the widow had put in 'more' than all the others (v43). It was obviously not literally more, so what then does Jesus mean?
- Jesus shows in this story that he is able to judge our hearts and our actions, and that the two are closely linked. What challenges does this story give us as we seek to 'walk humbly'?
- How do you think generosity might be linked with 'walking humbly'? How might we be challenged in our giving?



MICAH 6 : 8

WALK HUMBLY WITH YOUR GOD

BIBLE STUDY



Read: Luke 14 : 7-14 - Jesus teaches about humility

- What prompted Jesus to tell these stories (v1 & 7)? Do you think the Pharisees were aware that they were living in a way that displeased God? Why or why not?
- The hardest thing about living humbly in the way that Jesus describes here is when no-one else notices you. Do you agree? What in these verses encourages you to continue to walk with humility even when no-one else knows what you are doing (v11)?
- Once again, Jesus notices what lies behind the Pharisees' actions. This must have been a challenging party for his host! Why do you think Jesus was so strong in his teaching - surely not to humiliate? What was his real purpose?



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WALK HUMBLY WITH YOUR GOD

GOING DEEPER

Walking humbly with God begins when we have a personal relationship with God.

Why do you think we struggle with the words 'humble' and 'submit' in the Bible? What is necessary before we are happy to 'walk humbly'? Look at **Proverbs 3 : 5 - 6**

Walking with God implies that we are living life alongside him. How do you think this might look in your daily routine?



Read: John 13 : 1-17

This well-known passage shows Jesus at his most humble and his most powerful. Do you think this image of Jesus is one that people associate with his church? Why or why not? How can we seek to help people understand what our servant king is like?

MICAH 6 : 8

WALK HUMBLY WITH YOUR GOD

LISTEN | PRAY

LISTEN

SERVANT KING
Graham Kendrick



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zCAdWs-ZyEk>

PRAY

Pray as you finish that you will understand what it cost Jesus to come to earth and show us what it meant to 'walk humbly'.

Thank him for his sacrificial demonstration of true strength.

Ask God to help you to grow in a humility which shows those around you what your God is like.